



The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Post Office Box 1307
Natchez, MS 39121-1307
Phone 601-446-1208; Fax 601-446-1214
E-mail Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu
Website www.colin.edu/nlcc

February 23, 2005

To: All Speakers, Lecture Chairmen, Award Winners, and Other VIPs at the 2005 NLCC
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, NLCC Founder and Co-chairman
Work phone: 601-446-1208; home phone: 601-445-5955
Re: Welcome to Natchez!

We are so glad you are with us to help make the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration another event to remember. Thank you for all you are doing to help us. Here are a few notes that may be helpful.

- Please look at the enclosed copy of the information you sent us, telling us which meals and other events you wish to attend. We gave the event planners the number determined from your replies. We encourage you to attend the events you indicated since your local hosts/hostesses are eager to meet you and serve you.
- If you want a ride to lunches away from the Convention Center on Thursday and Friday, simply look for a Copiah-Lincoln van, driven by Carl Roberts. Lunch on Saturday is one-half block from the Convention Center. If you need a ride at other times, look for me or call me at above numbers.
- You may certainly follow the map in the program booklet and take your own car to any of the sites involved. Parking is always free.
- If you are a member of the NLCC Advisory Board, remember the luncheon meeting is at 12 noon, Friday, Feb. 25, at the Garden Center behind Monmouth, corner of Melrose Avenue and John Quitman Boulevard. At the entrance to Monmouth, turn left and circle all the way to the rear of the property. For those not on the Advisory Board, lunch on Friday, Feb. 25, is at the beautiful, historic mansion Magnolia Hall, just four blocks from the Convention Center.
- Please complete and return your evaluation form. We like to hear from you!
- Please enjoy your enclosed complimentary copy of *The Writer* magazine. The publisher of this magazine sent numerous copies as an indication of the esteem the company has of the NLCC.
- Enjoy yourself!

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The 16th Annual



Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration

"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South"

Presents

"William Johnson: Natchez Journalist About Town"

By Lester Sullivan

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Redd- Watkins Career-Technical Center

Nelson Multipurpose Room

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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Program

Presiding.....Ms. Lolita T. Kendall, Academic Advisor/Transfer Specialist
Student Support Services
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez, MS

Welcome &
AnnouncementsMs. Gwen S. McCalip
Acting Dean of Natchez Campus
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez, MS

Introduction of
SpeakerThe Rev. A. R. Brown, Pastor
Zion Chapel AME Church
Natchez, MS

Speaker Mr. Lester Sullivan
Xavier University
New Orleans, LA

Questions and Answers.....

Presentation of Winners
Co-Lin Journal Writing ContestMrs. Judy Wiggins, Instructor
Copiah- Lincoln Community
College
Natchez, MS

Closing

You are invited to attend other celebration programs at the

Natchez Convention Center,
Wednesday - Saturday, February 23-26, 2005

and at Copiah- Lincoln Community College-Natchez Campus
Sunday, February 27, 2005

Sessions are free or low cost.

The NLCC is sponsored by Copiah- Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting

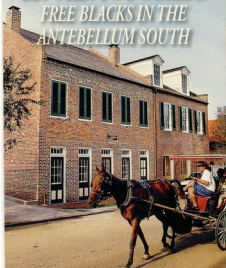
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The 16th Annual
Natchez Literary and Cinema
Celebration
Natchez, Mississippi

FEBRUARY 23-27, 2005

PRESENTS

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS:
*FREE BLACKS IN THE
ANTEBELLUM SOUTH*



The William Johnson House, home of a Free Black in Natchez and now owned by the National Park Service, will be officially opened Feb. 26, 2005.

Headquarters
Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street
Natchez, Mississippi

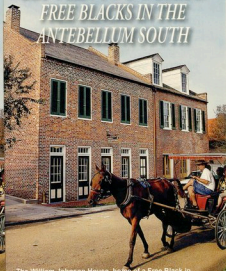
*Unless otherwise noted, all events are free.
Locations change for certain events.*

The 16th Annual
Natchez Literary and Cinema
Celebration
Natchez, Mississippi

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No. C11

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

presents

Pre-conference Seminars

8a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

11 Co-Lin Circle • Natchez, Mississippi

\$15



No. C17

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

presents

**A Luncheon Followed by a Program,
"Hoopskirts, Fiddles, and Furs: Natchez Music, 1840-1850,"****Mickey Davis and A Trace of Natchez,
Natchez, Mississippi, and El Dorado, Arkansas**

11:45 a.m., Thursday, February 24, 2005

Carriage House at Stanton Hall

401 High Street • Natchez, Mississippi

\$20



No. 068

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

presents

A Reception

5-6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 24, 2005

Natchez Museum of African-American Culture

301 Main Street • Natchez

\$10



No. 346

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

presents

**"Creole Jazz," a Concert by Don Vappie and
the Creole Jazz Serenaders of New Orleans
with Commentary about Early Creole Music**

8:00 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2005

Natchez Convention Center

211 Main Street, Natchez, Mississippi

\$10

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No

95

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents***A Gala Benefit Reception/Supper
Honoring Award Winners and Speakers**

8:00 p.m., Saturday, February 26, 2005
 Historic Bontura, the Former Home of Free Black
 Robert D. Smith, and Now Home of Ruthie and Jim Coy
 107 South Broadway Street, Natchez, Mississippi
 \$125 (\$100 is tax deductible.)

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**The Natchez Literary
and Cinema Celebration
Presents****WILLIAM JOHNSON'S NATCHEZ**

One-hour, Free, Guided Walking Tour of
 Downtown Natchez

3:00 p.m., Sat., Feb. 26, 2005

(Tour departs from Natchez Convention Center,
 211 Main St., and ends at the
 William Johnson House, 210 State St.)



No

96

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*presents***Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops
With Refreshments**

8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sunday, February 27, 2005
 Copiah-Lincoln Community College
 11 Co-Lin Circle • Natchez, Mississippi

\$15

No. 578

Name _____
 Address _____
 City & State _____
 E-Mail _____

Maxwell Printing

*Proceeds from this raffle will help match the
 National Endowment for the Humanities
 challenge grant to*

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

\$10.00

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

Drawing Saturday, February 26, 2005

4 Packages to be raffled:

- 1 package includes a trip on the Riverbarge Explorer
- 1 package includes overnight stay at Monmouth
- And other great packages!

No. 578

Natchez free blacks conference to feature Johnson house

By Kathy Harnahan
The Associated Press

Natchez, a virtual epicenter of free blacks in Mississippi before the Civil War, this week is hosting a three-day seminar exploring the topic.

Carolyn Vance Smith, celebration leader and co-chairman, said this year's "Between Two Worlds" theme was selected to coincide with the opening of the renovated William Johnson house in Natchez. The conference marks the 16th year the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration has hosted a convention of this caliber.

Johnson, considered by historians as Mississippi's best known free black during slavery times, owned a barber shop and bath house in Natchez during the early to mid-1800s.

"We thought this conference would be a good springboard to our community and to anybody that wants to come to understand who he was and how he fit in with the other free blacks and how they fit in with slaves, whites and Indians," Smith said.

Johnson's life was explored through books like William Johnson's Natchez and The Barber of Natchez. His home, now owned by the

National Park Service, will open to the public on Saturday after renovations.

"Here in this town we have this guy who's not supposed to be there, that is a black person who's free living in the belly of the beast, living in the heartland of the slave South, contradicting everything that society stands for," said Ira Berlin, the conference's keynote speaker.

Berlin, a professor at the University of Maryland, hopes the opening of Johnson's house will spark interest in the subject of free blacks.

"Many people, perhaps most people, don't

know there were black people who were free in the slave South or if they believe they were, think there were a couple of them," Berlin said. More than a quarter of a million blacks were free in the South during the years preceding the Civil War, Berlin said.

Writer Alan Hoffman of Boston will speak on Sunday about conducting research in his home state and Liberia for his book *Mississippi in Africa*.

In the book, Hoffman delves into the genealogy of Isaac Ross, a slave owner in Jefferson County who placed a provision in his will to set his slaves free.

THE DETAILS

"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South" begins Wednesday with speakers, movies and musical performances at the renovated William Johnson house in Natchez.

Lectures are at the Copiah-Lincoln Community College campus in Natchez.

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Opinion

The Democrat

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Johnson House a Literary Landmark

The Literary Landmarks Association was founded in 1986 by former FOLUSA (Friends of Libraries U.S.A.) president, Frederick G. Ruffner, to encourage the dedication of historic literary sites.

Dedications have included homes of famous writers (Tennessee Williams, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, William Faulkner), libraries and museum collections, literary scenes (such as John's Grill in San Francisco, immortalized by Dashiell Hammett, and Willa Cather's Prairie near Red Cloud, Nebraska), and even "Grip" the Raven, formerly the pet of Charles Dickens and inspiration to Edgar Allan Poe and now presiding (stuffed!) at the Rare Books Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia. The list of dedicated sites continues to grow.

On Saturday, during the official grand opening ceremonies of the William Johnson House taking place during the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration festivities, the William Johnson House will be added to the list of dedicated sites. The ceremonies will take place at 9 a.m. at the Natchez Convention



Top of the Morning

Susan Cassagne

Center and the ribbon cutting and official presentation of the landmark plaque will follow at the William Johnson house. A permanent bronze plaque declaring the William Johnson House to be a FOLUSA Literary Landmark will be placed at the site and a smaller presentation plaque will be placed in the Judge George W. Armstrong Library to commemorate the event.

William Johnson (ca. 1809-1851), a free African American businessman and diarist, kept a daily journal covering 16 years. In 1938, Johnson's 2,000 page diary was discovered along with numerous other personal and legal documents. The widow of Johnson's grandson made possible the publication of the diary in 1951. That discovery, many years after

Johnson's death in 1851, made the publication of this fascinating first-hand account of a former slave who rose from harsh circumstances to become a successful businessman possible. It is also an intimate portrait of life and social relations in Natchez in the years leading up to the Civil War. No other Southern diary provides such a detailed accounting of so many aspects of everyday life. Johnson, a former slave, kept the journal, which included daily notations of his life, his thoughts and impressions. A book about William Johnson, *The Barber of Natchez*: by Edwin Davis and William Hogan, was published in 1954.

Funding for the plaque was donated by Libby Aydelott, a past president of the Friends of Mississippi Libraries. The Literary Landmarks Register marking is sponsored by the United States National Park Service, Friends of the Judge George W. Armstrong. Friends of Mississippi Libraries and the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Susan Cassagne is director of the Natchez Adams Wilkinson Library Service.

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MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL

AUDIENCE EVALUATION FORM

Information completed on this form is for Mississippi Humanities Council use only. It will not be shared with any other organizations or interest groups.

Name of Program: Natchez Literary and Location: Natchez, Miss.
Cinema Celebration, Feb. 23-27, 2005

Program Evaluation

- How did you hear about the program?
☐ Newspaper ☐ Television ☐ Radio ☐ Mailing ☐ Email
☐ Other _____
- Did the MHC receive credit for supporting the program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- What humanities disciplines were central to this program?
☐ Literature ☐ History ☐ Philosophy ☐ Anthropology/Archaeology
☐ Ethics ☐ Linguistics ☐ Foreign Languages ☐ Comparative Religion
☐ Ethnic Studies ☐ Classics ☐ Jurisprudence/Law ☐ Art History
☐ Other (please specify) _____
- As a member of the audience, how did you respond to the program?
☐ Enthusiastically ☐ Mildly interested ☐ Not interested
- Did this program advance your knowledge and understanding of the topic?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not much at all
- How well was the program suited to the audience?
☐ Very well ☐ Well ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all
- Overall, how would you rate this program?
☐ Excellent ☐ Very good ☐ Good ☐ Acceptable ☐ Poor
- Would you recommend this program/speaker to others? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Audience Participant Information

- A. ☐ Female ☐ Male
☐ African American ☐ Professional ☐ 18-25 Years ☐ High School/GED
☐ Asian ☐ Farmer ☐ 25-45 Years ☐ Two-year college
☐ Caucasian ☐ Laborer ☐ 45-65 Years ☐ Four-year college
☐ Hispanic ☐ Retired ☐ Over 65 ☐ Graduate School
☐ Other ☐ Student
- B. Residence ☒ Inner City ☐ City ☐ Suburb ☐ Town ☐ Rural

For more information about the Mississippi Humanities Council and its programs, please print your name and information below. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and will assist us in providing programming of interest and assistance to Mississippians. Please feel free to elaborate on the back of this evaluation form.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

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Concert Time!

**Don Vappie and the
Creole Jazz Serenaders
Friday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m.
Natchez Convention Center**

Sponsored by the Natchez
Literary and Cinema Celebration
Tickets: \$10 (some proceeds benefit N-Sights)
Available from N-Sights staff or the
Office of Public Information

PROFILE EDITION

Pulitzer Prize winner, Mississippi native to be honored at NLCC



William Raspberry, a distinguished columnist and Mississippi native, is being honored at this year's NLCC.

By STELL MCLENN
 The Natchez Democrat
NATCHEZ — When it comes to journalism heroes, it's hard to top the man long-dead Washington Post columnist William Raspberry has claimed in recent years.
 In 1994, the National Association of Black Journalists honored him with its Lifetime Achievement award. That same year, Raspberry went on to capture a columnist's highest honor, the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Commentary.

Honors

Locally Raspberry will appear on Saturday, one part of the Natchez Library and Cinema Celebration, a Richard Wright Award for distinguished writing by a native Mississippian, as paid for said he's very honored to receive.
 This year's honorees also include Mildred D. Taylor award-winning author of "Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry."
 "There's something special about being recognized as a

Mississippi writer," Raspberry said. "It's my joy to be Alabama writer of an Arkansas writer doesn't say much of anything, although the three states are mostly the same."
 "It's a pleasure to me, why that is, that is to be honored to be one of the outstanding members of this powerful group is an honor to me."
 Not at this point in his life, Raspberry is not concerned with the big honors that he is with Baby Steps.

See Honored, 2A

Library and Cinema Celebration opens today

The initiation and grand opening of the William Raspberry House, a part of the Natchez historic National Park, is only one of the many highlights of the 19th Annual Natchez Library and Cinema Celebration, and conference luncheon and co-sponsor Center News South of Capital Local Community College.
 "We have a rich program for the hour for the day," Smith said. "We are excited."
 Opening with Smith is one of the Celebration speakers, University of Mississippi, and local president.

See Library, 2A

Shorts shows 'no remorse'

Rookie teenager arraigned in robbery

By JILL HENNING
NATCHEZ — The last man arrested in the January armed robbery of the Washington Shell station showed no remorse as he

and was charged as **Counts**
 accusations
 to the crime were assigned Thursday morning, Judge Charles Smith said.

Kendall Herman Shortt, 15, 22 Nelson Ball Field Road, Route 1 and 12th Avenue Circle, received a \$400,000 bond from the court.

Vice said Shortt was "very cold" and showed "no remorse."
 Shortt was arrested Friday and charged with armed robbery when he was found hiding at a Roney Green Apartments residence.

In the apartment with him were Thelma L. Hunt, 27, and Leticia R. Hunt, 28, and a 14-year-old female.

All three were arrested and charged with accessory after the fact of armed robbery and harboring a fugitive.

Bond for Huntley was set at \$50,000 and Hunt required a \$5,000 cash bond.

Vice said Hunt's bond was lower because she has four children at home, has received notice for immediate eviction from her apartment and she seemed wary for her actions.

"I don't know that she's a flight risk," Vice said. "She seemed quite cooperative." The

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THE 16 ANNUAL NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION
Presents

**NEW ORLEANS CLASSIC JAZZ
BY THE CREOLE JAZZ SERENADERS**

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

8 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2005

Natchez Convention Center, Natchez, Mississippi

WELCOME

By The Honorable William F. Winter, Jackson, Mississippi, Former Governor of Mississippi
and Director of Proceedings, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

INTRODUCTION OF DON YAPPIE AND THE CREOLE JAZZ SERENADERS

By Dr. Donzell Lee, Chairman, Fine Arts Department, Alcorn State University

About the Creole Jazz Serenaders...

The Creole Jazz Serenaders perform selections from the 1920s and 1930s, concentrating on songs and musicians of New Orleans, "The Birthplace of Jazz." These songs are by such notables as Joe "King" Oliver, Sidney Bechet, and Jelly Roll Morton, and also by lesser known bands, such as The Sam Morgan Band.

Included in the repertoire are several Creole jazz tunes sung in the French patois of New Orleans. Indeed, the Serenaders are perhaps the only band that still performs this indigenous style of jazz.

The Serenaders' program shows the evolution of New Orleans jazz as it spread up river by way of musicians who traveled to other parts of the country and the world. The group presents an educational program while maintaining the spirit that made these songs the dance tunes of the period.

NOTE: Following the concert, CDs by Don Yappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders will be sold and autographed in the Convention Center lobby.



- This concert is part of the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 23-27, 2005, using the theme, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." Free programs are set for 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Natchez Convention Center and other downtown locations. The Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops are 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27, at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Workshop tickets are \$15, payable at the door.
- The NLCC's annual free awards ceremony is set for 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Natchez Convention Center, honoring the outstanding writers Callie Khouri, Mildred D. Taylor, and William Raspberry. The public is invited. A book signing will follow.
- The NLCC is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. It is partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

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Selected Poems by Maya Angelou

When I Think About Myself

When I think about myself,
I almost laugh myself to death,
My life has been one great big joke,
A dance that's walked,
A song that's spoke,
I laugh so hard I almost choke,
When I think about myself.

Sixty years in these folks' world,
The child I works for calls me girl,
I say "Yes ma'am" for working's sake.
Too proud to bend,
Too poor to break,
I laugh until my stomach aches,
When I think about myself.

My folks can make me split my side,
I laughed so hard I nearly died,
The tales they tell sound just like lying.
They grow the fruit,
But eat the rind,
I laugh until I start to crying,
When I think about my folks.

Miss Scarlett, Mr. Rhett and Other Letter-Day Saints

Novitates sing Ave
Before the whipping posts,
Circusscrossing their breasts and
tearstained robes
in the yielding dark.

Animated by the human sacrifice
(Golgotha in blackface)
Priests glow purely white on the
bas-relief of a plantation shrine.

(O Sing)
You are gone but not forgotten.
Hail, Scarlett. Requiescat in pace.

God-Makers smear brushes in
blood/gall
to etch frescoes on your
ceilinged tomb.

(O Sing)
Hosanna, King Kotton.

Shadowed couplings on infidels
tempt stigmata from the nipples
of your true believers.

(Chant Matenoster)
Hallowed Little Eva.

Ministers make novena with the
charmed bones of four
very small
very black
very young children

(Intone D I X I E)

And guard the relics

of your intact hymen,
daily putting to death,
into eternity,
The stud, his seed,
His seed
His seed.

(O Sing)
Hallelujah, pure Scarlett,
Blessed Rhett, the Martyr.

Southeast Arkansasia

After Eli Whitney's gin
brought to generations' end
bartered flesh and broken bones
Did it cleanse you of your sin
Did you ponder?

Now, when farmers bury wheat
and the cow men dump the sweet
butter down on Davey Jones
Does it sanctify your street
Do you wonder?

Or is guilt your nightly mare
bucking wake your evenings' share
of the stilled repair of groans
and the absence of despair
over yonder?

Phenomenal Woman

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's
size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees,
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,

The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
The palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Woman Work

I've got the children to tend
The clothes to mend
The floor to mop
The food to shop
Then the chicken to fry
The baby to dry
I got company to feed
The garden to weed
I've got the shirts to press
The tots to dress
The cane to be cut
I gotta clean up this hut
Then see about the sick
And the cotton to pick.

Shine on me, sunshine
Rain on me, rain
Fall softly, dewdrops
And cool my brow again.

Storm, blow me from here
With your fiercest wind
Let me float across the sky
Till I can rest again.

Fall gently, snowflakes
Cover me with white
Cold icy kisses and
Let me rest tonight.

Sun, rain, curving sky
Mountain, oceans, leaf and stone
Star shine, moon glow
You're all that I can call my own.

Still I Rise

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,

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WeatherForecast

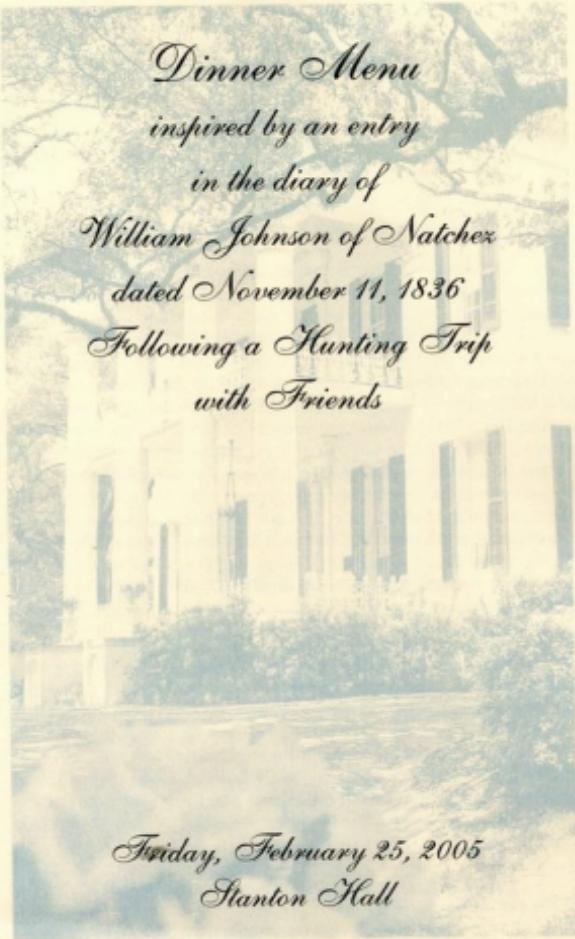
Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration events today

► Free programs relating to the theme, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." Dr. Douglas Bristol of The University of Southern Mississippi speaks at 9 a.m. on Black barbers and the structure of Free Black society; Dr. William L. Andrews of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, speaks at 10:30 a.m. on William Johnson and the African-American narrative; Dr. Leonard P. Curry of the University of Louisville speaks at 2 p.m. on Free Blacks in the urban South; and Dr. Virginia Meacham Gould, author of New Orleans, speaks at 3:30 p.m. on the women in the William Johnson family.

► The Celebration and Friends of Mississippi Public Broadcasting host a free public reception today, 5-6:30 p.m., at historic Pleasant Hill, 310 S. Pearl St., home of John and Valerie Bergeron.

► Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders in concert, 8 p.m. at the Natchez Convention Center. Tickets are \$10, payable at the door.

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Dinner Menu
inspired by an entry
in the diary of
William Johnson of Natchez
dated November 11, 1836
Following a Hunting Trip
with Friends

Friday, February 25, 2005
Stanton Hall

*William Johnson:
A Man Between Two Worlds*

William T. Johnson (1809-1851) was one of more than 200 "free people of color" in the town of Natchez, Mississippi, during the antebellum era. Although born enslaved, he was manumitted when he was eleven years old.

As an adult he became a successful barbershop owner and invested in land and slaves. Although Johnson achieved prosperity in the heart of the Cotton Kingdom, as an African-American he was subject to extremely restrictive laws and racial prejudice.

Johnson was a prolific diarist and kept journals covering sixteen years of his life. These writings reveal an intimate glimpse at the author himself, as well as a vivid portrait of Natchez with its colorful citizens and raucous character.

Johnson's Greek revival townhouse at 210 State Street is today a unit of the Natchez National Historical Park. His home has been restored to its historic appearance and is open for visitors.



*Menu created by
Chef Regina Charboneau*

Menu

Chicken in Champagne Sauce Volvent

Butter Biscuits with Cured Bacon

Apple Chutney

Fried Oysters with Savory Sauce

*Crusty French Bread
with Sweet Cream Butter*

Beef Tenderloin in Claret Sauce

Duck Breast with Orange-Muscat Sauce

*Cornbread Dressing stuffed
with Mustard Greens*

*Clementine-Orange Bread Pudding
with Whiskey Sauce*

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Opinion

The Democrat

Friday, February 25, 2005

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Diary inspires flower show designs

Exploring William Johnson's World" is the theme for this year's Pilgrimage Garden Club Flower Show. Exploring is just what you will be doing, as those of you attending will have a chance to view downtown homes in William Johnson's neighborhood.

By now you have read of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

One of the prominent free blacks featured in the celebration is William Johnson, who owned a prosperous barber shop in Natchez, among other business ventures. Johnson kept ledgers for 16 years detailing his daily activities, which provide insight into Natchez society.

The themes for the flower show designs are taken from this diary and include events and daily activities Johnson participated in.

One section of floral designs will be located at Holly Hodges, 214 Washington St., home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stephens. The themes in this section are hobbies and pastimes Johnson enjoyed, including horse racing, musical instruments,



Top of the
Morning
Christine
Roberts

theater, sketching and fine food.

The Coyle House, 307 S. Wall St., home of Mr. and Mrs. Larn Adams III, will be the location of another design section. These themes include Johnson's outdoor interests, including hunting a wide variety of game, fishing with friends on the Mississippi River and farming on his land southwest of Natchez.

Youth participants will display their designs at Texada, 222 S. Wall St., home of Mrs. George W. Moss. The themes involve Johnson's interest in steamboats, his love of pets, and his work as a volunteer fireman.

The children's designs are always a fun addition to the flower show.

Horticulture specimens cut from the yards of garden club members will be on display at Greenlea, 211 S. Wall St., home of Mr. and Mrs.

Phillip Carby.

The youth horticulture will be exhibited at The Griffiths-McComas House, 301 S. Wall St., home of Mrs. Charles Petkivsek Jr.

There will also be educational exhibits displayed at The Governor Holmes House, 207 S. Wall St., home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Cates.

The gardens of Texada, Greenlea, and The Governor Holmes House will also be open for touring. All of these houses were chosen because of their location in William Johnson's neighborhood.

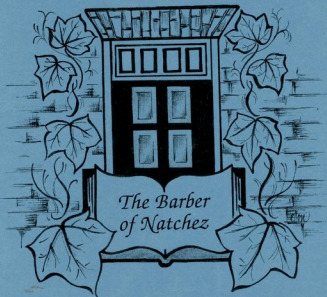
The Pilgrimage Garden Club is delighted that these homeowners have graciously opened their homes for what we feel will be a most interesting event. We are equally pleased to be included among the activities of this year's Natchez Literally and Cinema Celebration.

The Pilgrimage Garden Club is happy to invite the public to attend our 2005 flower show, which is free of charge. The show will be held Saturday from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at the above mentioned homes, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Christine Roberts is chairman of the 2005 PGC Flower Show.

The Pilgrimage Garden Club
Natchez, Mississippi
presents

"Exploring William Johnson's World"
A Standard Flower Show



Saturday, February 26, 2005
2:30 - 5:00 p.m.

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BOOK IT!

NATCHEZ LITERARY and CINEMA
CELEBRATION



Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South

Feb. 23 - 27, 2005
Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

Programs by Nationally Known
Scholars, Writers, Film Experts
as well as

- Films • Concerts • Exhibits
- Discussions • Tours
- Book Signings
- Writing Workshops • Receptions
- Meals

All free or low-cost!

SPECIAL EVENT

The grand opening of the
William Johnson House,
home of a Free Black in
Natchez, now part of the
Natchez National
Historical Park

9 a.m., Feb. 26, 2005

Information & Tickets
1-801-446-1289
1-866-296-6522 Toll-Free
www.colin.edu/nloc

Sponsors
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
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Mississippi Department of Archives and History
and
Mississippi Public Broadcasting

NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Cordially Invites You to the

Grand Opening of

the

William Johnson House

210 State Street

Natchez, Mississippi

Dedication Ceremony at

Natchez Convention Center

February 26, 2005

9:00 a.m.

Followed by Ribbon Cutting

at the

William Johnson House

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No. 72

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

presents

Pre-conference Seminars

8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

11 Co-Lin Circle • Natchez, Mississippi

\$15



The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

WILLIAM JOHNSON'S NATCHEZ

A One-hour, Free, Guided Walking Tour of
Downtown Natchez

2:30 P.M., Sat., Feb. 26, 2005

(Tour departs from Natchez Convention Center,
211 Main St., and ends at the
William Johnson House, 210 State St.)

No. 577

Name _____
Address _____
City & State _____
E-Mail _____

Marcel Printing

*Proceeds from this raffle will help match the
National Endowment for the Humanities
Challenge grant to
The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*
\$10.00

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

Drawing Saturday, February 26, 2005

4 Packages to be raffled:

1 package includes a trip on the Riverbarge Explorer

1 package includes overnight stay at Monmouth

And other great packages!

No. 577

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Matche 2 Dem
2/26/05

Message

Continued from 1A

and accomplishments of black people, she could use those stories as the basis of her books. She dedicates her awards to her father, she said, because "without his words, my words would not have been."

William Raspberry

In a time when the news presents stars, parties and people as "red" or "blue" depending on their political bent, William Raspberry believes most

thoughtful people are slightly ... purple.

That's what the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, a 45-year veteran of the Washington Post, told ceremony attendees in receiving his Richard Wright Award.

While Raspberry has been commended for his fairness, he believes the reason his long-syndicated column resonates with readers is simply because

he does his best to present all sides.

Raspberry said the lessons he's learned in his journalism career can be boiled down to one: "On virtually every important controversy, ... most thoughtful people believe both sides."

While the news presents "red" (voting majority Republican) and "blue" (mostly Democratic) states, Raspberry said "there is a

little blue in the reddest of us, and a little red in the bluest of us. We're all just a little bit purple."

Seeing all sides doesn't mean a person doesn't have the courage of his convictions, Raspberry stressed.

"I'm sick to death," he said, "of watching us try to grind each other to dust, ... like it's a sin to acknowledge the other person just may have a point,

too."

Calie Khouri

Calie Khouri needs your help.

Not to achieve recognition from her peers — she's already won an Oscar, for her 1991 screenplay "Thelma & Louise."

Or to obtain a name for herself in Hollywood — she's already achieved that with the success of such screenplays as "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya

Sisterhood" and "Something to Talk About."

But in accepting this year's Horton Foote Award, Khouri said studios' quest for the biggest-grossing films has led to make movies catering to 16- to 25-year-old males, shallow flicks for young girls and action movies.

In the process, Khouri said, there has become less of a market for more emotionally com-

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The William Johnson House
Dedication

Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

Saturday, February 26, 2005
9:00 a.m.



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Natchez The Democrat

\$1.50

Sunday, February 27, 2005
www.natchezdemocrat.com

SUNDAY EDITION

Staying true to message

NLCC winners speak on topics close to heart

By NITA MCCANN

The Natchez Democrat
NATCHEZ — Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist William Raspberry and Mildred D. Taylor, award-winning author of "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry," were presented Saturday with this year's Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards.

A Saturday night ceremony, part of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Khouri also featured screenwriter Callie Khouri ("Thelma & Louise") receiving the Horton-Postle Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing.

During the event, which was held at the Natchez Convention Center, all three winners said they were deeply honored to receive the awards.

But for the most part, all three stayed on message, speaking of the need to pass history on to children, the need to see all sides of a controversy and the need to support quality films at the box office — or suffer through the shallow films that result.

Mildred D. Taylor

In accepting her Richard Wright Award, Mildred D. Taylor, Newberry Award winner for "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry," told a tale of two letters.

In one she recently received, a teacher in small-town Illinois said two of Taylor's books were about to be banned in a school because they contained "the n-word." In another, a student in Pennsylvania told of being asked by a teacher what novel he was currently reading. He asked a fellow student to "grab me a book" from a nearby shelf.

She grabbed Taylor's "A Road to Memphis."

"He said that because he read that book he began to understand the history of black of relationships between black and white (people) ... and why there was a need for a civil rights movement," Taylor said.

While she can understand why parents don't want their children reading painful words, she said it's important for families, not just schools, to give children a full account of the past.

Taylor said that because her relatives — foremost her father,



Dream come true

Reading the writings of William Johnson etched on glass panels, Garryl Brockbridge, Sondra Raspberry and William Raspberry get a look at the exhibits of the National Park Service's newest property. In pictures above from left, Willie Mae Bacon and her sister Patricia Williams look at one of the Johnson's diaries; Mary Louise Miller and her daughter Lois Hawthorne look at part of the new exhibit; and Butler Cobb tries to catch a peek of the inside of the house during the grand opening.

Saturday's William Johnson House opening three decades in making

Almost 30 years after its purchase by dedicated preservationists, after insistent lobbying at the state and national level and after more than a decade of research and construction, a new Natchez National Historical Park site has been born.



Today's edition

Look for our special section inside for more Profile stories.

Well over 300 people attended a Saturday ceremony — at the convention center, due to the threat of rain — and ribbon cutting at the William Johnson House itself to mark the house's official opening as an interpretive center.

William Johnson, a free black man and a successful barber in pre-Civil War Natchez, kept an exhaustive diary of his life and times that was finally published in the 1950s. The house at 210 State St., built in 1841, served as home to Johnson's family for 134 years. "There are many (National Park Service) sites that talk about black history, but this one stands out in telling the story of free black people in pre-Civil War times," said Park Service Executive Director Fran Mainella.

"(Johnson) was literate and able to tell the story not just of himself, but of ... Natchez. So this makes it a unique site throughout the entire national park system — that and the fact that the entire community partnered to make it happen."

The Johnson House contains exhibit relating to Johnson and the family life and Natchez society of his time. Those exhibits include a touch screen with quotes from Johnson, a tactile exhibit for the blind, original court papers from the Johnson murder trial and historic paintings of Natchez. An upstairs room is furnished as a bedroom would have been at that time.

See House, 2A



National Park Service director Fran Mainella talks during the dedication ceremony with a picture of the William Johnson House in the background.

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Natchez Trace Parkway

Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee
National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior

Official Map and Guide



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natchez trace

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Our Mission

The Natchez Democrat and its employees strive:

- To produce exciting, top-quality news publications focusing on people and events that affect the Miss-Loc.
- To bend over backwards to meet the needs of our advertisers;
- To report news accurately and without bias;
- To edit and publish with integrity and with the best interests of our community in mind;
- To operate at a profit level that allows us to fairly compensate our employees, reinvest in our organization and stand independent from outside influences;
- To take an active leadership role in our community;
- To do what we say we will do;
- And, above all, to treat our readers, advertisers and employees as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Our Opinion

Kick off your week with good news

Good morning and good Monday. As we look forward to another week of work and school, we take a look back at the good news from the previous week.

► The 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration was another resounding success this past week. The several days' worth of programs, presentations and lectures would not have been possible without the hard work of so many people who put on the event every year. Congratulations to the winners of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards — William Raspberry and Mildred D. Taylor — and the winner of the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing — Callie Khouri.

Speak out

We encourage you to share your opinion on the or other topics. Submit your letter to the editor to The Democrat by:

- E-mail: news@natchezdemocrat.com
- Fax: (601) 442-7325
- Mail: P.O. Box 1447, Natchez, Miss. 39121
- Or in person: 503 N. Canal St., Natchez.

All letters must be signed by the author and must include a telephone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit submitted information. For more information, call 442-3541.

pleased that the National Park Service held its grand opening and ribbon cutting Saturday morning for the William Johnson House. The grand opening follows three decades of persistence to recognize the history behind the home of Johnson, a free black whose meticulous diary has been a great source of detailed history on Natchez's everyday life. National Park Service Director Fran Mainella made a special trip to Natchez for the grand opening, which took place as part of the NLCC events.

► Congratulations to all of the winners of Friday's Special Olympics basketball tournament in Natchez — and that would be all of the participants, as well as their teachers, supporters and volunteers who helped make the event a success. The Special Olympics events are a great source of self-esteem for the young athletes, and we wish them well as they continue their competitions.

Here's hoping you and your family enjoy good news throughout the rest of the week.

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Smith, Carolyn Vance

From: McCalip, Gwen
 Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 7:34 PM
 To: Natchez Everyone
 Subject: Monday Update

Monday Evening Greetings!

Well, anyone who had anything to do with the 16th Annual NLCC should pat themselves on the back because it was an overwhelming success and was another feather in Carolyn Vance Smith's cap! Congratulations, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Colson and Mrs. Williams! You all did a terrific job and we at Co-Lin are so pleased with our association with this award-winning conference. I know that those three would be the first to admit that they depend on a great amount of help and that our Co-Lin family helps tremendously. I was fortunate to be able to attend many different sessions and functions and was so pleased to see so many of Co-Lin's staff and students who were volunteering their time and energy and also participating in various events. If I start naming names, I will get in trouble, but Mr. LaFrancis did set up a neat Co-Lin exhibit which was manned by our wonderful SHARE students and he did so much more! He was everywhere!! But he was rewarded in that he had the honor and privilege of having dinner with William Raspberry who is a Pulitzer Prize winner and this year's Richard Wright Award recipient. Mrs. McLemore and her PTK members did an excellent job of hosting the coffees and the reception during the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshop at Co-Lin on Sunday. All of you who also helped know who you are and we thank you. And last but not least, our own Dr. Ronnie Nettles, Co-Lin's Executive Vice President, did an outstanding job as the master of ceremonies for the whole celebration. He told me that he was going to take a more active part this year, but little did he know that Dr. Garner would become ill and that he would have to be his substitute. That meant he had to be there for everything! He made all of us Co-Linians proud!!!

Also a special thank you goes out to Dr. Robert Smith for representing Co-Lin/Natchez at the Community College Day at the Capitol in Jackson last week. The two of us visited with several legislators, sat in on a Senate meeting and had a private meeting with Senator Bob Dearing. Hopefully it was a productive day.

If you haven't read the recent issue of "N-Sights" honoring Mr. Oliver and featuring NLCC and our soldiers, get a copy now! Mr. LaFrancis and his newspaper did an exceptionally great job and they warrant our readership!

This week is off to a busy start!

Dean Harris and I are completing evaluations, and she and I will travel to Wesson tomorrow morning for Dr. Garner's staff meeting. I will return to our campus, but Dean Harris, Mr. Pevey and Mrs. Heard will have a meeting with Dean Louis Dugas at 10:30 and then Mrs. Harris has another meeting at 1 PM with Dean Dugas.

Dean Harris will travel back to Wesson on Wednesday to participate in a SACS follow-up meeting. I have to give a classification talk to Rotary and will not be able to go to Wesson for this meeting, but Dean Harris will report to us.

Wednesday, March 2, at 11 AM, the Sojourners from our Wesson Campus will perform in the Multipurpose Room at the Career-Tech Building. Please try to attend and encourage your students to participate. As the students say, "They Rock!"

Wednesday, March 2, at 2:00 PM, the Electronics/Instrumentation and Welding students will travel to Wesson for a presentation by TransOcean, Inc.

Thursday, March 3, at 8:00 AM, select students from the above programs will travel to Wesson to be interviewed by TransOcean, Inc.

I will be in Wesson all day Thursday for a Board of Trustees Retreat followed by a 4:30 PM monthly Board of Trustees meeting.

Friday, March 4, at 11 AM, the Career and Technical Education Faculty/Staff will have their monthly meeting and then Mrs. Heard, Mrs. McLemore and Dean Harris will attend a Program Review Committee meeting in Wesson.

Also on Friday, the 2005-2006 Endowed Scholarships Applications will be available for pick-up in the Admissions Office. A letter and list of eligible students will be distributed to faculty by Wednesday of this week.

3/1/2005

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Region

The Democrat

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Our Regrets

In a Sunday article about the opening of the William Johnson House, Mrs. Hawthorne's first name was given incorrectly. Her first name is Lois.

Also, Hawthorne is Mary Louise Miller's only child.

We regret these errors and are happy to set the record straight.

Editor's note: The end of the Sunday article about the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration's annual awards ceremony was inadvertently omitted. Here is the end of the story.

By NITA MCCANN

The Natchez Democrat

Callie Khouri needs your help.

Not to achieve recognition from her peers — she's already won an Oscar, for her 1991 screenplay "Thelma & Louise."

Or to attain a name for herself in Hollywood — she's already achieved that with the success of such screenplays as "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" and "Something to Talk About."

But in accepting this year's Horton Foote Award, Khouri said studios' quest for the biggest-grossing films has led to make movies catering to 16- to 25-year-old males, shallow flicks for young girls and action movies.

In the process, Khouri said, there has become less of a market for more emotionally complex movies. Her translation: less work for her and the thoughtful screenwriters that are now coming to Hollywood behind her.

"I worry that their movies won't see the light of day," Khouri said, noting that "movies (that speak of) the intricacies of the human heart are harder to get made than ever before."

Therefore, Khouri challenged discerning moviegoers to support the good films that are coming out of Hollywood. "There has to be a demand," she said.

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Campus newsletter - March 30, 2005



NLCC WINNERS: The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration recently honored three writers. From left are Callie Khouri, William Raspberry and Mildred Taylor. Khouri received the Horton Foote Award for Screenwriting, while Raspberry and Taylor earned the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence. More than 1,000 attended a variety of events around Natchez, including programs at Co-Lin. (More in the next edition of N-Sights)

BSU to offer 'Praise Fest'

The Baptist Student Union will sponsor a stirring Praise Fest on Friday, April 1, at Parkway Baptist Church. The event will include a variety of spiritual presentations from inspirational performers and singers at Co-Lin Natchez, Co-Lin Wesson and around the region.

The program will be 7-9 p.m. and is free; door prizes will be awarded, too.

The program is certain to both uplift the soul and entertain the heart.

The program consists of Christian comedienne Naomi Barnette from Raymond, who portrays "Naomi Ruth," a precocious child who relates Christian stories; a 12-member drama team from the Baptist Student Union from Co-Lin's Wesson campus, and vocalists Wesley Strebeck and Michelle Jones.



Naomi Barnette
as Naomi Ruth

Awards Night set for April 19

The campus and public are invited to attend the annual Awards Night, scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, in the W. L. Nelson Multi-Purpose Room. The program begins at 5:30 p.m. A host of awards and certificates will be presented, including the Hall of Fame award and *Trillium* honoree award.

Campus clubs hosting fun Spring Fling

Get ready to have some fun Wednesday, March 30, for a campus-wide Spring Fling.

"The clubs have planned some fun games, including a basketball toss, cupcake walk, palm reading, a ring toss, and face painting," said Nancy McFarland, academic counselor and member of the Co-Lin Natchez Relay for Life team.

There will also be a bake sale hosted by Phi Theta Kappa. A limited number of Spring Fling t-Shirts will be available also."

The event will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. near the gazebo. Money will be raised for Relay for Life and various clubs.

"There will be a lot of good eats, too. Team Co-Lin will be boiling crawfish and grilling up some hamburgers and sausages. Other clubs are planning popcorn, nachos, candy apples, funnel cake, cotton candy, drinks to quench your thirst, and much more," McFarland said.

"We hope to see everyone Wednesday at the Spring Fling."

Clubs are planning the following activities or edibles:

- Baptist Student Union: Drinks
- Delta Epsilon Chi: Bake sale
- Health Occupations Students of America: Drinks, popcorn and cotton candy
- N-Sights: Ring toss
- Phi Beta Lambda: Candy apples, nachos, funnel cake, corn dogs and pickles
- Phi Theta Kappa: Bake sale
- Student Government Association: Palm reading
- Skills USA (Student Hospitality and Recruitment): Basketball toss
- Team Co-Lin: Crawfish, hamburgers, sausage
- Army: Football toss
- Marine Corps: Pull-up challenge

SGA sponsoring walk for CF

The Student Government Association will sponsor a fund-raising walk for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Saturday, April 2, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the campus. Individuals may obtain pledges or make a donation to walk.

Cystic Fibrosis is a disease that produces a gene that causes the body to produce a mucus which clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections.

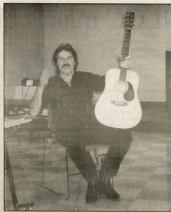
The walk is in memory of Co-Lin graduate Michael Fatherree, who lost his life to Cystic Fibrosis.



Frances Doss, adjunct instructor at Co-Lin, talks about writing during the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops



Ellen Douglas holds a copy of her latest book, "Witessing," during her talk at the workshops.



Singer/songwriter Billy Ray Reynolds talks about how he approaches writing a song during the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops.

N-Sights staff photos by Mark LaFrance



2005

Natchez Literary and
Cinema Celebration

Co-Lin hosts Ellen Douglas workshops

Reading from her latest book, "Witnessing," Ellen Douglas kept her audience spellbound during the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops on Feb. 27.

The workshops capped off a highly successful 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. Held at Co-Lin, the workshops offered those attending insights into research, writing and even song-writing from some of the best in the field. Douglas, herself, gave advice about writing. Frances Doss talked about "The History and

Importance of Journal Writing."

Her talk corresponded to one of the major themes of the NLCC, which explored free blacks in the antebellum South, particularly the journals of William Johnson, the Natchez businessman and free black. Johnson wrote copious notes about life in Natchez for nearly two decades.

Billy Ray Reynolds, singer/songwriter from Nashville explored writing songs and how the song-writing business works. He also talked

about his career as a song writer.

Other presenters were Elizabeth Shown Mills, author, who talked about reconstructing female lives in writing; Alan Huffman, author, who addressed primary research in Mississippi; and Tom Rosenblum, of the Natchez National Park, who talked about exploring the records of slaves and slave owners in Adams County.

Co-Lin gave a reception honoring Douglas. The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society prepared refreshments for the reception.

NLCC cooking up scrumptious theme for 2006

The memories of the 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration still linger in the Miss-Lous.

However, get ready for the 2006 event, scheduled for Feb. 23-25.

Next year's theme is scrumptious: "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

"Everybody seems excited about the theme for 2006," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin Natchez, founder and co-chairman of the NLCC. "I guess anytime you men-

tion something good to eat and drink, people light up. It's all part of our famous Southern hospitality."

The theme touches on nearly every aspect of Southern life and allows the NLCC 2006 to cut a wide swath of information, events, lectures, programs, sights and sounds, and, of course, literature and cinema.

Sponsoring agencies are again Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public

Broadcasting.

As always, the NLCC will be seeking helpers from both the faculty and staff and student body at Co-Lin.

Interested individuals may contact Smith at 601-446-1289 or her assistant Manisha Colson at 601-446-1213.

A pre-conference session on the Co-Lin campus will be at 11 a.m. - 12 noon, Wed., Feb. 22, in the Multi-Purpose Room, sponsored by Student Support Services, Co-Lin, and the NLCC.

The session will be free and open

to all Co-Lin students.

The official opening session of the NLCC will be at 9 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Natchez Convention Center. Subsequent sessions will be at the Convention Center from Thursday through Saturday evening, Feb. 23-25.

The post-conference Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops will be on the Co-Lin campus from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sun., Feb. 26.

Continuing Education Units for teachers will again be offered. Also, Williams Winter Scholars and William and Harriet Vance Fellows

will again be chosen and honored.

A festive fund-raising raffle event will again take place.

Awards will again go to outstanding writers, including two winners of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award and one winner of the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing.

Lectures, film, discussion, book signings, exhibits, tours, receptions, and meals will again be on the agenda.

Most of the conference will occur more or less free of charge. A few events will be ticketed.

'Everybody seems excited about the theme for 2006.'

Students have opportunity to learn about leadership

Student Support Services Report

Education can soothe the spirit, lighten the soul, uplift emotions, and fire the brain into orbit. All of this was done March 4-6 at the Mississippi Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP) Leadership Conference, which Tammy Williams and Kimberly Kaho attended.

The trip was sponsored by Student Support Services. Williams is president and Kaho is secretary and the organization is advised by Bettye Malien, director of Student Support Services.

Williams received the Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership qualities.

Keith Brown, one of the motivational speakers spoke of how he

was labeled "special" and how he proved that he was special but not in the way society had labeled him. He had acquired special skills which he used to have an effect on children's lives in the Atlanta area where he lives.

Delatorro McNeal, another motivational speaker, said he was labeled as an "at risk kid" until one teacher pointed to him and said, "You are going places young man and it is not where society say you will end up." In addition to being a speaker, he also is an author and coach in Florida.

At the conference, Lolita T. Kendall, SSS counselor, talked about the basic principles of public speaking.

"This information helped me to overcome my fears of speaking in

public," Williams said.

"I'd like to say how grateful I am for being chosen to be a part of The MAEOPP conference. It gave me a sense of what to expect of a great leader and also boundaries to set for myself while in and out of college."

Williams added, "Being the first person in my family to attend college has not being an easy task. I had to learn more so on counselors and seek the help of God than I could on many of my friends. Attending the MAEOPP Conference helped me to realize nothing in this world should be taken for granted and nothing in this world comes free.

"Everything has a price tag and if you want something bad enough, you will do everything and anything that's legal in your power to accomplish it."



N-Sights staff photo by Beverly Kincaid

Amber Heffner, president of the Student Government Association, staffed the Co-Lin table at the recent Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration at the Natchez Convention Center. Stopping by to look over the Co-Lin Natchez items was Chuck Gilbert, a member of the Co-Lin Board of Trustees. Co-Lin is a co-sponsor for the NLCC.

'Nothing in this world should be taken for granted and nothing in this world comes free.'

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Instructing from Peru *(continued from page 2)*

from Co-Lin as the Gulf Coast.

"The classes seem to be running smoothly, (we have had) the usual start-up problems, and getting student acclimated to on-line learning," she said.

"Naturally, when I'm in Peru I miss seeing my friends in the hall each day, sharing classroom ups and downs and having immediate feedback with problems that arise," she said. "But there, I am becoming a better problem-solver on my own. However, the total immersion experience in Peru keeps my mind active, and I am making many new friends."

Flynn's house is made of poles fashioned from local timber, then covered in brick and cement with a tin roof. However, another structure she is building is very indigenous to the area – made from poles and wood, with a Urupay palm leaf roof. "I will use the jungle-style house as a lodge to house travelers and backpackers, as well as students who wish to study abroad. Due to the temperatures of 70



Flynn draws water from her well.

to 90 degrees year-round, houses and living has an outdoor element, a tropical feel."

Her meals often come from a nearby Chinese-run restaurant that sells a

rotisserie chicken with French fries or fried plantains with Chinese rice, a banquet for only about \$2. Also, fresh fruit grows in abundance in this tropical environment. In her yard are such fruit trees as, mango, lime, avocado, bread fruit, and papaya.

"To get around town in Iquitos you rent a motorcar, a three-wheeled motorcycle with a seat for passengers and a roof. It costs less than a dollar to go downtown," she said. There are as many as 20,000 motorcars in the city.

"Another mode of transportation is the public buses," Flynn said. "There are no regulations for exhaust emissions, so when you're behind a bus, you can practice how long you can hold your breath."

Flynn presented a report on her experience at the Mississippi Foreign Language Conference in November.

"Although I miss the USA and my family when I am in Peru, it seems I am living a dream – living, learning, and enjoying my career in a Spanish-speaking country."

Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration a huge success

The 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration presented "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South" in February.

The program included Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, nationally known scholars and attractions in history Natchez.

The theme of the program was built around the life of free blacks in the South preceding the Civil War. Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College is a co-founder of the Celebration. It has been called "Mississippi's most significant conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture."

Two Co-Lin instructors and two students were honored at the conference as the 2005 William Winter Scholars. David E. Campbell, Wesson Campus, and Sara Marchbanks, Natchez Campus, were honored as outstanding humanities instructors. Student honorees were Ashley McCalip, Natchez Campus, and Belinda Simmons, Wesson Campus. Colleges throughout the state can honor staff, faculty and students with the award.

Over 100 scholarships to be awarded

More than 100 scholarships will be awarded during ceremonies scheduled for Natchez April 19 and Wesson April 20 by the Co-Lin Foundation. The scholarships, valued at more than \$65,000, are funded through the Foundation's endowed scholarship program.

More than 160 students benefit each year from Foundation scholarships. A reception will be held at each campus to allow scholarship donors and recipients to meet.

"Co-Lin alumni and friends have been very generous to the college and provide help for many deserving students," said Charlotte Hill, executive director of the Foundation/Alumni Affairs.

In addition to student scholarships, the Foundation provides scholarships for faculty development and assists a Science Quest program involving area high schools. The Foundation is also assisting *Microcosm*, a college literary magazine.

N-Sights

The campus newspaper of *Copiah-Lincoln Community College Natchez*

April/May 2005

Vol. 32, No. 4

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Writers receive high honors at NLCC

Columnist, author earn Richard Wright Award

The culmination of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is the evening in which the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards are presented along with the Horton Foote Award for Screenplay Writing.

The 2005 NLCC brought an eclectic, but well-respected trio to the podium that evening in February.

William Raspberry, nationally syndicated columnist, who has won the Pulitzer Prize, was one of the Wright recipients.

Mildred Taylor, children's author and winner of the Newbery Prize, the top honor from the American Library Association, joined



Award winners pose together. They are, from left, Callie Khouri, winner of the Horton Foote Award for Screenplay Writing; William Raspberry and Mildred Taylor, winners of the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence.



Gwen McCally, acting dean of the Natchez campus, proudly stands with Pulitzer Prize winning columnist William Raspberry, winner of the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence.



Mildred Taylor, winner of the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence, shakes the hand of "Buddy" Givens, a Co-Lin Natchez graduate and history teacher at the Natchez Middle School.



The band, Dan Vappie and the Creole Jazz Ceremonians entertained the audience during the 2005 NLCC.



2005

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Raspberry is winning the Wright Award.

Callie Khouri, who won an Oscar for her screenplay for "Thelma & Louise," as well as a Golden Globe Award, received the Foote award.

All three said how they felt honored to be recognized for their literary talents.

Raspberry praised the five-day celebration, the 15th of its kind in Natchez.

"You are also to be commended for your coordination of a most remarkable celebration," Raspberry wrote to Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman.

"I know this is an annual event, but I wouldn't be surprised if this is the best one yet," Smith (Raspberry's wife) and I would love to visit Natchez again."

Both Taylor and Khouri said they were honored to be in Natchez receiving awards for their craft.

During the NLCC, they attended a variety of events, signing autographs and being photographed with those who attended the NLCC.

The winners are chosen based on their achievement in writing and their connection to the South, particularly Mississippi.

Praise rolls in for 2005 NLCC

It didn't take long for praise to arrive for the 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration from all around the country.

Author Elizabeth Shown Mills of Tuscaloosa, Ala., wrote, "Writers are driven by the conviction that 'if we write it, the world will read it.' Ah, what a delusion! This world, in which so many people digest books only through sound bites heard in other media, surely needs stages such as the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to rivet atten-

tion on books and their power to entertain, enlighten, and season the human condition."

Mills added, "As a writer driven by my own compulsion to help the world better understand itself, I am indebted to you, to NLCC, and to your sponsors for your sixteen years of investment in the enrichment of society. Thanks to all of you for your superbly planned and exquisitely executed celebration of free blacks in antebellum America."

"Let not take this opportunity to

thank you (co-founder Carolyn Vance Smith) for letting me be a part of an extraordinary conference," said Dr. Douglas Brinkot of the University of Southern Mississippi. "Although many conference planners mouth platitudes about finding the nexus between academics and the public, few deliver on this goal the way that you and your colleagues did at the Literary and Cinema Festival. I also left Natchez all the richer for the new friends that I had made, which I hope includes you." *Ms. January 13th a good bet*

NLCC cooking up scrumptious theme for 2006

The memories of the 2005 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration still linger in the Miss-Los.

However, get ready for the 2006 event, scheduled for Feb. 23-25. Next year's theme is scrumptious: "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Bites: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

"Everybody seems excited about the theme for 2006," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin Natchez, founder and co-chairman of the NLCC. "I guess anytime you men-

tion something good to eat and drink, people light up. It's all part of our famous Southern hospitality."

The theme touches on nearly every aspect of Southern life and allows the NLCC 2006 to cut a wide swath of information, events, lectures, programs, sights and sounds, and, of course, literature and cinema.

Sponsoring agencies are again Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public

Broadcasting.

As always, the NLCC will be seeking helpers from both the faculty and staff and student body at Co-Lin.

Interested individuals may contact Smith at 601-446-1208 or her assistant Marsha Cohen at 601-446-1213.

A pre-conference session on the Co-Lin campus will be at 11 a.m. - 12 noon, Wed., Feb. 22, in the Multi-Purpose Room, sponsored by Student Support Services, Co-Lin, and the NLCC.

The session will be free and open

to all Co-Lin students.

The official opening session of the NLCC will be at 9 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Natchez Convention Center. Subsequent sessions will be at the Convention Center from Thursday through Saturday evening, Feb. 23-25.

The post-conference Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops will be on the Co-Lin campus from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sun., Feb. 26.

Continuing Education Units for teachers will again be offered. Also, William Vance Scholars and William and Harriet Vance Fellows

will again be chosen and honored.

A festive fund-raising raffle event will again take place.

Awards will again go to outstanding writers, including two winners of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award and one winner of the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing.

Lecturers, film, discussion, book signings, exhibits, tours, receptions, and meals will again be on the agenda.

Most of the conference will once more be free of charge. A few events will be ticketed.

'Everybody seems excited about the theme for 2006.'

Opinion

The Democrat

Monday, May 9, 2005

NLCC serves as model for all programs

The 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration,

"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South," held Feb. 23-27, succeeded on so many levels that it could easily be used as a model for all programs of its scope throughout the state.

First, all of the five-day events focused on a theme as worthy and interesting as it was timely. Playing off the unique experiences of the Free Black William Johnson of Natchez, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South" broadened its view to address the history, literature and culture of Free Blacks in the American South prior to 1865.

Second, this celebration not only provided a stellar array of scholars but also a well-paced, diverse format for them to educate, entertain and engage audiences each day and night. Finally, it offered something for everyone: for the highly educated academic, the scholars and their findings provided a feast of information. For the less educated and more mainstream individual, the fascinating subject itself and the opportunity to intermingle with the presenters made the experience memorable.

Any successful humanities program has a compelling and relevant theme as well as effective, interesting speakers to deliver that theme. With the National Park Service dedicating and officially opening the William Johnson House this year, a perfect theme came into play for



Top of the Morning
Anne White

the NLCC: "Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

Yet without the careful preliminary planning and participation of humanities scholars, the quality of this program would definitely have suffered.

Careful research and interviewing went into the choosing of lecturers and speakers for this literary event. Such talent as Doug Inglis, Director of the Texas Tech University Research Center, Seville, Spain; Alex Kronemer, documentary film maker, Silver Spring, Md.; Elizabeth Shown Mills, author of "Isle of Canes," Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and Virginia Meschen Gould, historian and interviewer of a William Johnson descendent, New Orleans, proved that in order to reach audiences and stimulate critical thought, careful planning and vigilant follow-up must exist.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of this Natchez celebration was the audience it reached. Held in the Natchez Convention Center, the free, daytime lecture series played to an extremely diverse group of individuals: old, young,

African-American, Caucasian, others of various ethnic backgrounds, scholars and the curious. And the numbers were consistently excellent — 200 to 400 for each session, with weekend activities attracting even more people who could not attend the lectures.

Again, careful planning of publicity with grassroots information, news releases, direct mail, phone calls, internet correspondence and personal appearances stimulated interest and drew crowds. People must be interested in and aware of a program if they decide to attend, and those in Natchez proved to be both informed and interested.

A provocative focus, good organization, a diverse format with qualified, quality presenters and effective publicity that reaches a wide audience — all are essential if a large-scale event is to be successful. Moreover, spin-offs for future programs should be born during an exciting, well-coordinated experience. In other words, the momentum should keep going.

With its wealth of history, literature and culture, the Natchez area has just ripped the tip of the iceberg in its examination of multi-racial and ethnic influences on art, government and values, both past and present.

The possibilities are endless, and if past experience holds true, the planners of this illustrious Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration have already begun to brainstorm.

Ann White is a Boonerville resident.

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Community Arts

Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

The 16th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration was held in February with the theme "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South." At the NLCC's Awards Night, nationally

syndicated columnist William Raspberry and children's author Mildred Taylor received the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award, while screenwriter Callie Khouri ("Thelma and Louise") earned the Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing. A major event in Natchez - the dedication and opening of the William Johnson House - coincided with the NLCC. National Park Service Director Fran Mainella participated in the dedication and ribbon cutting. The Natchez campus hosted several events including the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops, where Ellen Douglas read from her latest book, "Witnessing."



NLCC award winners from left, Callie Khouri, Mildred Taylor and William Raspberry.

Community Arts Series

The 2004-2005 *Aficionado* Subscription Series again featured four outstanding and exciting performances.

One of America's foremost chamber groups, The Webster Trio, mesmerized the audience.

The Baltimore Consort, a virtuoso ensemble, captivated the audience with an expressive program of 16th, 17th and 18th century traditional music.

Pianist Michael Ourt and cellist Paul York dazzled the audience with their delightful program.

The *Aficionado* Series concluded with The Acting Company's performance of William Shakespeare's, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. The Tony Award winning repertory company, presented a riotous romp about the bonds of friendship and fidelity.

The popular Showcase Series featured The Oxford Piano Trio, classical guitarist Michael Peña, pianist Constance Carroll and an exhibit by local artist and Co-Lin instructor Janet Campbell Smith.

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary in 2005-2006, the Community Arts Series will offer a star-studded program.

The *Aficionado* Series will feature piano sensations The 5 Browns on October 4; world-renowned The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company on



November 1; Seventh Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Silver Medalist Philippe Bianesi; The Colorado Quartet, and 2005 Van Cliburn International Piano Gold Medalist Alexander Kobrin.

The Showcase Series will feature Lyrics, the clarinet and piano duo of Angela Wzlawsky and James Slater; mezzo soprano Lester Senter with pianist John Paul and the Croatian guitar duo of Dr. Miroslav Loncar and his wife Dr. Natasa Klasac.



Co-Lin Voice Instructor Denise Riley (right) talks with a member of The Acting Company during the post-performance reception at Porches Restaurant.



"BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: FREE BLACKS IN THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH"

FEBRUARY 23-27, 2005, NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

REPORT WRITTEN BY ANN WHITE, MARCH 2, 2005

The 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration succeeded on so many levels that it could easily be used as a model for all programs of its scope throughout the state. First, all of the five-day events focused on a theme as worthy and interesting as it was timely. Playing off the unique experiences of the free black William Johnson of Natchez, "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South" broadened its view to address the history, literature, and culture of Free Blacks in the American South prior to 1865. Second, this celebration not only provided a stellar array of scholars but also a well-paced, diverse format for them to educate, entertain, and engage audiences each day and night. Finally, it offered something for everyone: for the highly educated academic, the scholars and their findings provided a feast of information; for the less educated and more mainstream individual, the fascinating subject itself and the opportunity to intermingle with the presenters made the experience memorable.

Any successful humanities program has both a compelling and relevant theme as well as effective, interesting speakers to deliver that theme. With the National Park Service dedicating and officially opening the William Johnson House this year, a perfect theme came into play for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South. Yet, without the careful preliminary planning and participation of humanities scholars, the quality of this program would definitely have suffered. Careful research and interviewing went into the choosing of lecturers and speakers for this literary event. Such talent as Doug Inglis, Director of Texas Tech University Research Center, Seville, Spain; Alex Kronemer, documentary film

N-Sights

The campus newspaper of Copleah-Lincoln Community College Natchez

April/May 2005

Vol. 32, No. 4



N-Sights staff photo by Mark LaFrancis

Tops in their class

2005 Hall of Famers
Amber Heffner, left,
Teri Troxler, center
and Shelia Logan

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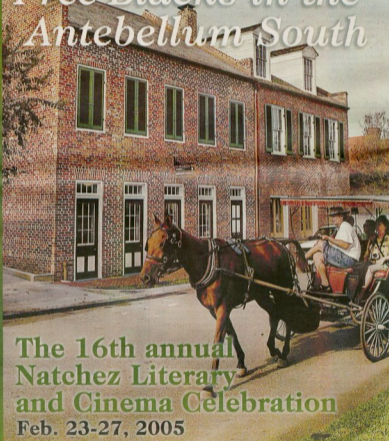
Copiah-Lincoln
Community
College

Natchez
National
Historical Park

Mississippi
Department
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and History

Mississippi
Public
Broadcasting

Between two worlds: *Free Blacks in the Antebellum South*



The 16th annual
Natchez Literary
and Cinema Celebration
Feb. 23-27, 2005

Opinion

The Democrat

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

NLCC raffle could help fulfill wishes

Have you ever just wished that, like Huck and Jim, you could float down the Mississippi, leaving all your cares behind? Well, imagine doing just that — not on a raft but rather a luxurious floating hotel barge, with all expenses paid, delicious meals, gorgeous scenery, fun activities, and terrific service.

Have you ever wished on a rainy cold day that you could just struggle in with hot chocolate and a really good book? Imagine having a choice of the newest books of John Grisham and Greg Iles ... or Edward Jones' best seller *The Known World* ... or one of a dozen others.

Have you wished you could step back in time to the days when Elizabeth Taylor was young and beautiful and Clark Gable was the dashing Rhett Butler? It takes more than imagination to do that but watching the old movies of Gone with the Wind or Raintree County might bring back those days.

You can help make those wishes come true by buying a Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration raffle ticket to support the NLCC efforts to match its \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. For the price of a \$10 ticket, you receive a chance to win one of four spectacular packages.

The River Explorer package, valued at over \$5,000 and donated by the RiverBarge Excursion Lines, Inc. of New Orleans, features a trip on the River Explorer, the only hotel barge on America's waterways. The winner will choose a trip to two from one of seven geographic regions. The trip is all inclusive, including accommodations, all meals, snacks, coffee and soft drinks, all gratuities, taxes, port charges and scheduled shore activities.

The Raintree County package includes a first edition copy of *Raintree County* by Ross Lockridge, considered so scandalous in 1948 that the original cover was recalled and an "offensive statement" was



Top of the Morning
Shirley Petkovsek

deleted in the second printing. Many Natchezians remember the days of "stalking" the Eola Hotel or driving out to the ruins of Windsor to catch a glimpse of stars Elizabeth Taylor, Montgomery Clift and Eva Marie Saint when they were filming the movie of the same name. Making the package truly special is an overnight stay at beautiful Rosawood Plantation in Port Gibson with lunch and a tour of the ruins of Windsor Plantation, once known as one of the most magnificent houses on the Mississippi. Also included is a souvenir program from the 1957 world premiere of the movie, a video of the movie, and Southern Grand, a beautifully framed print, signed and numbered, by artist Alice Thurmond, depicting the Windsor Plantation ruins. Providing a lasting memory of this experience is a sitting and 11" x 14" portrait by award winning Natchez photographer, T.G. McCary.

The Gone With the Wind package features an overnight stay at Monmouth Plantation, including breakfast and a house tour, two framed movie promo posters (23" x 35") of Scarlett and Rhett, an artist's rendition of Vivian Leigh, the novel, DVD, "Tara's Theme" sheet music, Civil War music CD and Miss Scarlett wine.

Did you know that Monmouth plays "Tara's Theme" when you are on hold?

What would a Literary event be without something to read? The Books, Books, Books package, contains a wonderful mix of fact and fiction, including *The Barber of*

Natchez and William Johnson's *Natchez* and signed copies of *The Broker and Blood Memory*, John Grisham and Greg Iles' latest thrillers. The package includes books by two conference speakers — *The Known World* by Edward Jones and *Mississippi in Africa* by Alan Hoffman. Other titles include *The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, *The South in Perspective: An Anthology of Southern Literature*, *The Writer's Handbook*, *Natchez: An Illustrated History*, *The Goat Castle Murder: A True Natchez Story* that Shocked the World and *William Faulkner Novels: 1957-1962*, *The Town*, *The Mansion*; *The Reivers*, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison, *Mama Flora's Family* by Alex Haley and *David Stevens*, and many other wonderful titles.

The wonderfully generous people of our community have made these packages a wish come true. Many thanks to Lani and Ron Riches, Libby and Al Hollingsworth, Dr. Varn Craig, Dianne's Pearle Shop, Turning Pages, Old South Winery, the Divine Divas of Raffles, and all who have volunteered time, energy, and resources.

Now that you have decided to buy a ticket, how do you go about doing so?

Most important, you do not have to be present to win. Tickets may be purchased in the lobby of the Natchez Convention Center during the NLCC program hours, beginning Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. until drawing time on Saturday evening, Feb. 26. You may purchase raffle tickets in advance by mailing a check payable to NLCC (\$10 per ticket) to NLCC, PO BOX 1307 NATCHEZ, MS 39120.

Make a wish come true ... for yourself and for a worthy cause. Buy a raffle ticket and keep your fingers crossed!

Shirley Petkovsek is a Natchez resident.

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Region

been labeled as the best and most original bongo player in New Orleans.

He has performed with the Preservation Hall Band since 1988 and organized his own group in 1995. The Creole Jazz Sereaders have toured widely, including abroad.

"When we started the group, we wanted this style not to be forgotten," Vappie said. "Creole is just one part of New Orleans jazz. Creole music has a kind of Latin sound but with French lyrics."

Jim Barnett of Natchez, a musician and a historian and a co-chairman of the literary and cinema conference, said Vappie's group plays "a type of jazz that you really can't find many places, and it's distinctive to New Orleans."

Vappie, who arranges all the music played by the band, encourages improvisation only during solos. "My feeling is that improvisation played a part in early jazz, but complete improvisation would be chaotic," Vappie said.

He recalled the words of the



Don Vappie will perform during the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

famous early jazz musician King Oliver, who "didn't want his piano player 'doodling around.' He told the piano player he had a clarinet player who could do that," Barnett said because the band plays pre-arranged pieces. "I kind of think of it as jazz chamber music. Each instrument has a definite part to play and there is a definite form to it."

Best of all, Barnett said, the Creole jazz played by Vappie engages the audience. "The people of Natchez should really enjoy this music. It's very approachable for people who aren't experts in music," Barnett said.

Vappie hails from a famous musical family and talks about that during the concert as he describes the evolution of music in New Orleans from the late 1800s to the early decades of the 20th century.

New Orleans, with its dominant French culture, was fertile ground for the development of music such as jazz, Vappie said.

Proud of his own Creole heritage, Vappie said Creole has been contro-

versial. A Creole is a mixture of African and French or Spanish. "In America, you have to be white or black. Creole is not white or black but is a culture," he said.

People from the Caribbean Islands settled in New Orleans in the late 1800s, bringing their musical influence to what was evolving into jazz. "(Ferdinand) 'Jelly Roll' Morton' said it's not New Orleans jazz unless it has that Latin tinge," Vappie said.

Barnett said the Creole Jazz Sereaders play music that New Orleans audiences enjoyed when jazz was in its developing stages.

One at the piano, another on bass, one on drums, two who play both clarinet and sax, two playing trumpet and Don on vocals, guitar and bongo make up the group.

"Don is a virtuoso on tenor barjo," Barnett said. "The tenor barjo is a four-string instrument used in New Orleans jazz, a very important part of New Orleans jazz."

Vappie's wife, Millie, plays an important role behind the scenes. "She wears so many hats," Vappie said. "She basically picks out our music and brings it to me. She doesn't perform and play professionally, but she has a fantastic musical ear."

Tickets for the concert are available by calling 601-446-1289 or toll free at 866-296-6522. Tickets also will be available at the door.

SPLIT ENDS

Bulldogs fall in 6-5A tourney,
but girls in in overtime
SPORTS, 1B

rat

50¢

Wednesday, February 16, 2005
www.natchezdemocrat.com

Vappie and jazz band to perform for conference

AN GANDY
Natchez Democrat

THEZ — Don Vappie will play his distinctive jazz style to a crowd on Feb. 25, when his jazz-based group performs at 8 p.m. at the Natchez on Center.

Vappie and the Creole Jazz Sereaders will appear as part of

Music

the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration during the Feb. 23-27 event.

An accomplished tenor barjo player who has appeared with the Wynton Marsalis jazz ensemble at Lincoln Center, Vappie often has

See Jazz, 5A

2005 jazz 2
page 4

Inspired by history

William Johnson 1836 hunting trip inspires menu for Natchez Literary Celebration dinner

By NITA MCCANN

The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — "There went to Day
Several of us went into the Swamp a Duck
hunting."

So begins an entry in the
diary of William Johnson, a
free black and successful
entrepreneur in antebellum
Natchez.

In that entry, dated Nov. 11,
1836, Johnson describes in
detail a hunting trip to Cypress
Bayou, including the lunch
they enjoyed and the game
they killed.

But little did Johnson know that almost
170 years later, his descriptions of food
would be used to create a meal for some of
Natchez's most honored guests.

An invitation-only buffet dinner prepared
by Chef Regina Charbonneau will be held
the evening of Feb. 25 at the antebellum
house Stanton Hall for them and other
Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

VIPs.

And in keeping with this year's theme,
"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the
Antebellum South," Charbonneau will pre-
pare a menu based on some
of the foods mentioned in the
Johnson diary entry described
above.

Two of the NLCC's co-
organizers, Carolyn Vance
Smith and Keith Whittemore,
"came to me and wanted to
do an event...in conjunction
with the ingredients
(Johnson) talked about."



Those ingredients range from duck and
oysters to champagne
and oranges — updated
for the modern palate,
of course. Therefore,
Johnson's separate
mentions of chicken
and champagne will
become, on

See History, 2C

Photo illustration
by Ben Hillyer

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The Natchez Democrat

50¢

Thursday, February 17, 2005
www.natchezdemocrat.com

Students follow in Johnson's footsteps with journal contest

By JULIE FINLEY
The Natchez Democrat

NATCHEZ — Times have changed a little since William Johnson's days in the 1800s, but the experiment of keeping a journal can still be the same.

Area high school and college students who participated in the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration's Journal Writing Contest did just what Johnson did, and some are receiving accolades for their work.

English class assignments for the contest instructed students to write a journal entry each day for two weeks. Natchez High, Trinity Episcopal, Cathedral School and Copiah-Lincoln Community

Miss-Lou

College students participated.

For Trinity senior Jessica Vines, keeping a journal was nothing new since she's been doing it since 2001, and it is something she said has been therapeutic.

"You keep things inside you, but you can just write them down then forget about them," she said. "And if you need them, you can go back and read it."

Former English teacher and judging committee chairman Carolyn Owin said it was interesting to see what today's youth were doing.

"It was an effort to see what was going on in the modern world," Owin said.

"They write very well and with a great sense of detail, and as you read you can spot the ones who just put something on paper."

"It was interesting to see how honest they were about their everyday activities."

Cathedral's Claire White said the assignment felt on a perfect week for her, over Thanksgiving break.

"My dad and I went on a trip to visit some colleges," White said. "I did it at night and would do some of it on the plane."

Tim winners from each school were chosen and from the high school winners

See Journal, 5A



Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

• The NLCC kicks off Wednesday at the Natchez Convention Center. This year's theme is "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South."

Journal

Continued from 1A

10 were selected to read their entries on "Rural Voices Radio" on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The students traveled to Jackson to tape the programs and they will air this month.

Cathedral senior Drew Belle Zerby was one of the 10 chosen for the radio broadcast. Zerby said keeping the journal was a new thing for her.

"It was time consuming. I had to make time to catch up," Zerby said.

The contest winners will receive two free tickets to a jazz concert to be held during the NLCC.

"We were impressed with the writing abilities of each student," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the NLCC. "All of the journal entries provided a unique and valuable reflection on the city of Natchez."

The NLCC will be Feb. 23-27.

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page 7

Eight new members join NLCC Advisory Board

Special to The Democrat

Eight people have recently joined the Advisory Board of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. "We welcome them," Jim Barnett, NLCC co-chairman, said. "They bring a wealth of expertise and advice to the board."

New board members joining in 2005 are Emma Blissett, Alcorn State University; Darryl Grennell, Adams County, Miss., Board of Supervisors; Emily Henderson, Brookhaven, Trust for Preservation; Donzell Lee, Alcorn State University; Douglas Lewis, National Gallery of Art; Cora Norman, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters; William Terrell, The Bluff City Post, Natchez; and Thelma Wallace Williams, Project Southern Cross, Natchez.

The eight new board members join 40 others who hail from coast to coast, Barnett said.

Barnett, Director of Historic Properties for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, is one of four NLCC co-chairmen. Other co-chairmen are Keith Whisenant, Superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park; Marie Antoon, Executive Director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting; and Carolyn Vance Smith, former Public Relations Director and English instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith and Co-Lin founded the Celebration in 1990.

The four co-chairmen form the NLCC Steering Committee and serve as leaders of the Advisory Board, which was established in 2000. Assisting them are Marsha Colson, NLCC office manager; Christy Williams, NLCC administrative assistant; and Maria Bowser, NLCC Director of Development.

"We are delighted to have the support and energy of the Advisory Board members," Barnett said. The board provides suggestions for programming, speakers, fund-raising, publicity and promotion, he said.

Many board members will be in Natchez for the NLCC and for the Advisory Board meeting Feb. 25, Barnett said.

Members of the 2005 Advisory Board are:

- Emma Blissett, Former NLCC Co-chairman and Instructor of English, Alcorn State University, Alcorn State
- Vicki Bodenhamer, Executive Director, Mississippi School of the Arts, Brookhaven
- Henri Bollinger, Henri Bollinger Associates, Sherman Oaks, Calif.
- Betsy Bradley, Executive Director, Mississippi Arts Commission, Jackson
- David C. Bramlette, U.S. District Court Judge, Woodville
- Todd Carpenter, Publisher, The Natchez Democrat, Natchez
- Ward Erling, Manager, Mississippi Film Office, Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development, Jackson
- Howell C. Garner, President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson and Natchez, Miss.
- Laura Godfrey, President, Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce, Natchez
- Darryl Grennell, President, Adams

Natchez

County Board of Supervisors and Assistant Professor, Alcorn State University, Natchez

► John D. W. Guice, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

► Barry Hannah, author, Oxford

► Alfredeen Harrison, Director, Margaret Walker Alexander Research Center, Jackson State University, Jackson

► Macy Hart, Director, Museum of Southern Jewish Experience, Jackson

► Sam Haskel, The William Morris Agency, Beverly Hills, Calif.

► Emily Smith Henderson, President, Brookhaven Trust for the Preservation of History, Culture and the Arts, Brookhaven

► Elbert Hillard, Emeritus Director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson

► Greg Iles, author, Natchez

► Donzell Lee, Chairman, Fine Arts Department, Alcorn State University, Alcorn State

► Douglas Lewis, Emeritus Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., now of Liberty

► Aubrey K. Lucas, Past President, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, and Past President, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

► Stuart Margolin, Actor/Producer/Director, New York and Natchez

► Millicent Mayo, Public Relations Director, Natchez-Adams School District, Natchez

► Scott Dixon McDowell, Professor of Film Studies, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg

► Gerald McFarley, actor, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

► Anthony Morris, Superintendent, Natchez-Adams School District, Natchez

► JoAnne Prichard Morris, Editor, Jackson

► Cora Norman, President-elect, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, and Emeritus Executive Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, Jackson

► Victor Nunez, Filmmaker, Tallahassee, Fla.

► Jennifer Ogden, Producer, Santa Monica, Calif.

► Bruce Boyd Raeburn, Director, Hogan Jazz Archive, Tulane University, New Orleans

► Lani and Ron Riches, Mornmouth Plantation, Natchez

► David G. Sansing, Emeritus Professor of History, The University of Mississippi, Oxford

► Clifton Taubert, author and lecturer, Freemount Corporation, Tulsa, Okla.

► Connie Taughton, Manager, Natchez Film Commission, Natchez

► William Terrell, Publisher, The Bluff City Post, Natchez

► Charles Vahlkamp, Emeritus Professor of American Film Studies, Centre College, Danville, Ky.

► Jerry W. Ward, Professor of English, Dillard University, New Orleans

► Thomas Weed, physician, Houma, La.

► Samuel L. White, Director, Resource Development and Sponsored Programs, Alcorn State University, Lorman

► Thelma Wallace Williams, Founding Director, Project Southern Cross, Natchez

► Charles Reagan Wilson, Director, The Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, Oxford

► William F. Winter, President, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson

► Charles Yarborough, Faculty, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, Columbus

FYI

For Masha

**Fax From
"Night Train"
Joe D'Aluisio - Producer/Host
Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

TO: Karyln Ritchie - Natchez Convention & Visitors Bureau - 601-442-5998

SUBJECT: Upcoming Coverage of 16th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Good Morning Karyln, Here are the events that I will be covering the weekend of February 25th and 26th:

Arrival Friday, February 26th, 2005 around 3 pm

FRIDAY, February 26th, 2005 - 8 pm - "Creole Jazz" Concert by Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders.

SATURDAY, February 26th, 2005

9 am - William Johnson House - Grand Opening

1 pm - "Black Masters: The Misunderstood Slaveowners"

1:45 pm - Reading of Selections from his Pulitzer Prize-Winning novel "The Known World, Edward P. Jones, Washington D.C.

6 pm - "An Evening with the Stars" - Honoring writers and winners

Thanks for your help



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We

6th Annual Natchez Literary and
Cinema Celebration
February 23 - 27
Natchez, Mississippi

In literary and cinema circles, February has become the signature month for one of the South's premier film and literary festivals--The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration (NLCC)--now in its sixteenth year and scheduled for February 23 through 27 in Natchez, Mississippi.

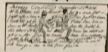


Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Described as "an annual thematic humanities event that ties together the historical, literary, political, social, artistic, and natural heritage of Mississippi and the South ... through lectures, films, documentaries, programs, seminars, workshops, discussions, concerts, dramatic presentations, exhibits, tours,

field trips, book signings, and award ceremonies," the conference is headquartered at Natchez Convention Center.

For more information call 601/446-1289 or 866/296-6522. Visit the NLCC website at www.coln.edu/nlcc.



February 23 - 27
Natchez Literary & Cinema
Celebration 2005
Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

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Natchez free blacks conference to feature Johnson house

By Kathy Hannahan
The Associated Press

Natchez, a virtual epicenter of free blacks in Mississippi before the Civil War, this week is hosting a five-day seminar exploring the topic.

Carolyn Vance Smith, celebration founder and co-chairman, said this year's "Between Two Worlds" theme was selected to coincide with the opening of the renovated William Johnson house in Natchez. The conference marks the 16th year the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration has hosted a convention of this caliber.

Johnson, considered by historians as Mississippi's best known free black during slavery times, owned a barber shop and bath house in Natchez during the early to mid-1800s.

"We thought this conference would be a good springboard to our community and to anybody that wants to come to understand who he was and how he fit in with the other free blacks and how they fit in with slaves, whites and Indians," Smith said.

Johnson's life was explored through books like *William Johnson's Natchez* and *The Barber of Natchez*. His home, now owned by the

National Park Service, will open to the public on Saturday after renovations.

"Here in this town we have this guy who's not supposed to be there, that is a black person who's free living in the belly of the beast, living in the heartland of the slave South, contradicting everything that society stands for," said Ira Berlin, the conference's keynote speaker.

Berlin, a professor at the University of Maryland, hopes the opening of Johnson's house will spark interest in the subject of free blacks.

"Many people, perhaps most people, don't

know there were black people who were free in the slave South or if they believe they were, think there were a couple of them," Berlin said. More than a quarter of a million blacks were free in the South during the years preceding the Civil War, Berlin said.

Writer Alan Huffman of Bolton will speak on Sunday about conducting research in his home state and Liberia for his book *Mississippi in Africa*.

In the book, Huffman delves into the genealogy of Isaac Ross, a slave owner in Jefferson County who played a provision in his will to set his slaves free.

THE DETAILS

"Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the Antebellum South" begins Wednesday with speakers, movies and musical performances at the renovated William Johnson house in Natchez.

Lectures are at the Copiah-Lincoln Community College campus in Natchez.

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Post Office Box 1307
Natchez, MS 39121-1307
Phone 601-446-1208; Fax 601-446-1214
E-mail Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu
Website www.colin.edu/nlcc

February 23, 2005

To: All Speakers, Lecture Chairmen, Award Winners, and Other VIPs at the 2005 NLCC
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, NLCC Founder and Co-chairman
Work phone: 601-446-1208; home phone: 601-445-5955
Re: Welcome to Natchez!

We are so glad you are with us to help make the 16th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration another event to remember. Thank you for all you are doing to help us. Here are a few notes that may be helpful.

- Please look at the enclosed copy of the information you sent us, telling us which meals and other events you wish to attend. We gave the event planners the number determined from your replies. We encourage you to attend the events you indicated since your local hosts/hostesses are eager to meet you and serve you.
- If you want a ride to lunches away from the Convention Center on Thursday and Friday, simply look for a Copiah-Lincoln van, driven by Carl Roberts. Lunch on Saturday is one-half block from the Convention Center. If you need a ride at other times, look for me or call me at above numbers.
- You may certainly follow the map in the program booklet and take your own car to any of the sites involved. Parking is always free.
- If you are a member of the NLCC Advisory Board, remember the luncheon meeting is at 12 noon, Friday, Feb. 25, at the Garden Center behind Monmouth, corner of Melrose Avenue and John Quitman Boulevard. At the entrance to Monmouth, turn left and circle all the way to the rear of the property. For those not on the Advisory Board, lunch on Friday, Feb. 25, is at the beautiful, historic mansion Magnolia Hall, just four blocks from the Convention Center.
- Please complete and return your evaluation form. We like to hear from you!
- Please enjoy your enclosed complimentary copy of *The Writer* magazine. The publisher of this magazine sent numerous copies as an indication of the esteem the company has of the NLCC.
- Enjoy yourself!

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The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez National Historical Park
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Mississippi Public Broadcasting

Post Office Box 1307
Natchez, MS 39121-1307
Phone 601-446-1208; Fax 601-446-1214
E-mail Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu
Website www.colin.edu/nlcc

February 23, 2005

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